

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SSO-00 /021 W

-----032036 081332Z /47

O 081128Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4746

UNCLAS BERN 3610

USDOC

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PORS SENV TATT US SZ

SUBJ: CALIFORNIA FOREST FIRES: OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
FROM SWISS AIR RESCUE SERVICE

1. FOREST FIRES IN WESTERN U S RECEIVING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE  
IN SWISS MEDIA. DR FRITZ BUEHLER, PRESIDENT OF  
PRESTIGIOUS SWISS AIR RESCUE SERVICE HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY  
TO OFFER TO MAKE AVAILABLE WITHIN 24 HOURS A FIRE-  
FIGHTING SYSTEM USED SUCCESSFULLY BY HIS ORGANIZATION  
THROUGHOUT SWITZERLAND. ENTIRE SYSTEM, MANUFACTURED BY  
SARNAFIL AG IN SARNEN, SWITZERLAND, CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE  
TO U S FEDERAL OR STATE AUTHORITIES.
2. BUEHLER HAS AVAILABLE 1100 SACKS, EACH OF  
WHICH HOLDS 850 LITERS OF WATER.  
SACKS ARE SET INTO METAL SUPPORT, MAY BE FILLED WITHIN  
58 SECONDS, AND ARE LIFTED OFF THE GROUND  
BY A HOOK ATTACHED TO A HELICOPTER HOVERING OVERHEAD.  
BELL MODEL 204 OR MODEL 205 IS MOST SUITABLE US-MADE  
HELICOPTER FOR THIS PURPOSE. HELICOPTER FLIES AT  
ALTITUDE 150-200 METERS ABOVE FIRE, RELEASES SACK  
OF WATER WHICH EXPLODES UPON IMPACT WITH GROUND, COMPLETELY  
ELIMINATING FIRE IN AREA THIRTY METERS IN DIAMETER.  
COST OF SACKS APPROX 75 DOLLARS EACH,  
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WITH REUSABLE METAL SUPPORTS FOR  
SACKS COSTING APPROX 190 EACH - MINIMUM OF TWO REQUIRED  
FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION. FIRES UNCONTROLLABLE IN SWITZERLAND  
HAVE BEEN DOUSED WITH AS FEW AS 3 SACKS DROPPED BY SWISS AIR  
RESCUE SERVICE. BUEHLER CAN MAKE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE  
ONE OR MORE PILOTS TO FLY TO US TO DEMONSTRATE SYSTEM.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REPUTATION OF DR BUEHLER AND SWISS  
AIR RESCUE SERVICE IS SUCH THAT EMBASSY BELIEVES ABOVE  
INFO SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY TO RELEVANT  
FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH COMBATTING  
FIRES IN WESTERN US. DR BUEHLER MAY BE REACHED BY  
TELEPHONE AT ZURICH 474747. FYI: IN 1956 SWISS AIR RESCUE  
SERVICE WAS CALLED UPON TO ASSIST US AUTHORITIES IN  
RECOVERING REMAINS OF PASSENGERS KILLED IN COLLISION OF  
TWO AIRLINERS OVER THE GRAND CANYON. END FYI.  
ODELL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AIR SEARCH & RESCUE, FOREST FIRES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1679416  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALIFORNIA FOREST FIRES: OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSITANCE FROM SWISS AIR RESCUE SERVICE  
**TAGS:** SENV, SWEL, US, SZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9eda5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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